

SUPPLEMENT TO
THE
MYSORE GAZETTE. 1287

ಮೈಸೂರು ಗಜೆಟ್. ಸಪ್ಲಿಮೆಂಟ್.

387

Published by Authority.

BANGALORE, SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 1868.

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS.

THE MYSORE AGRI-HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

SEASONABLE HINTS No. 10.

“Bedding out Flowers.”

At the commencement of the last season for gardening, a few remarks were offered in the *Herald* on the advantages of the present English system of bedding out flowers, but people seemed to think it was impracticable at Bangalore. It has however been found perfectly feasible from October to March, so a plea for “bedding out” is again offered. We have now an abundance of materials, rapidly increasing and offering ample diversity and scope for good taste and chromatic effect, while a continuous fresh bright appearance is ensured to the garden unattainable by other means. By bedding out, one series of flowers is shown blooming in the parterres while another is progressing in pots to succeed them, so the garden need never look bare or patchy. The arrangement of color in beds can be as skilfully effected as in forming a bouquet of cut flowers, the same delicate toning of primitive colors by neutral tints and avoidance of glaring contrast.

In fact bedding out has become quite a display of artistic skill, the result well repaying the extra trouble taken.

But it is necessary to know the colors of the plants for bedding, their relative heights and period of flowering. This information is given as far as possible in a tabular form, by which also people will see that most of the standard English bedding out plants cannot be applied in a similar way at Bangalore; while here we require no costly glass-houses for rearing and wintering them as in England.

With annuals and seedlings we have only to follow the English plan simplified, no hot bed being necessary. Sow the seeds in shallow pans well drained and placed perfectly level, cover them for 4 or 5 days with mats till the seedlings appear, when they have formed a few leaves they should be pricked out into small thumbpots and be shaded till they recover from the transplanting, eventually they should be shifted to somewhat larger pots and grown there till required to be bedded out. It is necessary to have a great number of these small pots of 2 sizes, their cost will be about 2 rupees a hundred; the patterns may be seen at the Horticultural Society's Office. The sides of the pots must be straight, not curved or the plants cannot be turned out clean without breaking up the ball of earth around them. For plants propagated by layers and cuttings these small pots are equally essential. To shelter newly planted seedlings a few sloping mat sheds should be put up as a protection both from sun, rain and high wind; the gardener must know how to prick out seedlings and to shift plants from one pot to another or into the garden bed, the rest is common gardening.

Arrangement of colors and massing of flowers, of course, must always be a matter of taste; a few good combinations that have been effected here this season are given as examples of what can be done.

1. A large oval bed, centre scarlet geranium edged with heliotrope; next a broad circle of golden yellow nasturtium, then sky blue hederacea, ipomea with an edging (stachys silver foliage.)

2. Heliotrope centre, scarlet geranium, edging cineraria maritima.

3. Salvia splendens (scarlet) for centre, next cineraria maritima, a silver circle, next dark foliage (begonia rex) edging, forget-me-not, blue flowers with pale green foliage.

- 38
4. Calliopsis drummondi (bright yellow centre) purple verbena outside, stachys edging.
 5. Scarlet geranium centre, purple verbena edging stachys.
 6. Clump of poinsettea shrubs (scarlet) with sky blue ipomearubro cerulea, for a lawn.
 7. Salvia splendens around a clump of plumbago (blue ledwort).
 8. White petunia centre, crimson petunia outside, edging mignonette.
 9. Enothera drummondi, the sulphur colored trailing, evening primrose and purple verbena.
 10. Scarlet salvia centre, caladiums, ferns, edging forget-me-not.

And so on *ad infinitum*.

In the hot season, the different colors of portulacca bedded out are very effective, and also the varieties of hardy verbena, but the latter require a great deal of water.

The different colored nasturtiums can be bedded out to make a garden gay of themselves. The golden nasturtium is a more effective yellow bedder even than the yellow calceolaria, the latter will not grow in Bangalore and is delicate in England, the former is quite hardy here. Alluding to nasturtiums it may be well to mention that the old straggling orange nasturtium has been quite superseded by the tom thumb species, which grows in a compact round mass with comparatively few leaves and a profusion of flowers, admitting of the plants being bedded out very close to each, and so produce an astonishing breadth of color, there can hardly be a more vivid red than a closely bedded mass of king of tom thumb nasturtiums. For blue, the lobelia speciosa is equally useful in Bangalore as in England, and until bedded out this season was supposed to be unsuited to Bangalore. Masses of aster bedded out after October are also very effective here.

The time for sowing the different kinds of bedding plants is as follows:—

Towards the end of May when occasional showers fall, sow portulacca, balsams, zinnia, ipomearubro, cerulea all of which require bottom heat to start the seeds. In June when the first fall of rain sets in, sow asters, phlox, lobelia, petunia, cineraria maritima, callirhoe, amaranthus, ipomeas, silver salvia, and calliopsis, for a first crop. In September, when the heaviest rains are over, sow a second of all but portulacca, add nasturtiums, larkspurs, poppies, Japan pinks, French marigolds. Towards the end of October sow more nasturtiums, pansies, and all English annuals that grow in the cold season. Zinnias, balsams and portulacca will not thrive at Bangalore in the cold season. For geranium growing, see a former article.

When the seeds are sown in June, people should hit off a favorable time just preceding a fall of rain which will give the seeds a good start, avoid sowing small seeds in windy weather or covering them over with much mould; fine seeds hardly require any mould over them. Some seeds like the aster, phlox and marigold are washed up to the surface on being watered, after sowing it is desirable to look to this for the 1st two or three times of watering, and cover over the seeds thus exposed with a little dust. The ants too carry them off, particularly asters and mignonette, an edge of ashes round the nursery bed or around the pots will keep off the ants effectually.

Balsams and zinnias will begin to flower in about 6 weeks from time of sowing, asters in about 10 weeks, phlox the same. Petunias in 8 weeks, lobelia take a long time, sown in June they will commence to flower in October. Calliopsis take 3 months to flower, nasturtiums 2 months, portulacca about 2 months to be in their full bloom, dahlias will commence flowering in August.

List of summer bedding plants commonly grown in England and of those acclimatised in Bangalore with color and relative height.

Color.	GROWN IN ENGLAND.				GROWN AT BANGALORE.				Height.
Red.	Scarlet Geranium...	...	...	...	Scarlet Geranium	...	...	...	Medium.
	" Verbena	...	...	...	" Verbena	...	...	...	Very dwarf.
	" Tom Thumb Nasturtium	...	...	...	" Tom Thumb Nasturtium	...	...	...	Dwarf.
	" Double Zinnia	...	...	...	" Salvia Splendens	...	...	...	Tall.
	" Balsams	...	...	...	" Zinnia, double and single	...	...	...	Very tall.
	" Salvia splendens	...	...	...	" Lobelia Cardinalis	...	...	...	Tall.
Yellow.					" Balsams	...	...	...	Medium.
					" Vermillion Portulacca	...	...	...	Very dwarf.
	Calceolaria. Cloth of Gold...	...	...	...	Erysemum Arkansum	...	...	...	Tall.
	Tagetes Pumila	...	...	...	Sulphur Portulacca	...	...	...	Very dwarf.
	Calliopsis Drummondi	...	...	...	Calliopsis Drummondi	...	...	...	Medium.
	Golden Nasturtium	...	...	...	Dwarf Yellow Dahlia...	...	...	...	do.
	Dwarf Yellow Dahlia	...	...	...	Anothera Drummondi	...	...	...	Dwarf.
	Enothera Drummondi	...	...	...	Golden Nasturtium	...	...	...	Medium.
					Yellow Chrysanthemum	...	...	...	do.

Color.	GROWN IN ENGLAND.					GROWN AT BANGALORE.					Height.
White.	White Verbena	...	...	...	...	White Verbena	...	...	...	...	Very dwarf.
	" Petunia	...	...	...	...	" Petunia	...	...	...	...	Dwarf.
	" Candy Tuft	...	...	...	...	" Candy Tuft	...	...	...	...	Medium.
	" Asters	...	...	...	...	" Asters	...	...	...	...	Dwarf.
	" Phlox	...	...	...	...	" Phlox	...	...	...	...	Medium.
	" Lobelia Snowflake	...	...	...	...	" Lobelia Snowflake	...	...	...	...	Very dwarf.
	" Vinca	...	...	...	...	" Vinca	...	...	...	...	Medium.
	" Portulacca	...	...	...	...	" Portulacca	...	...	...	...	Very dwarf.
	" Balsanis Camelia	...	...	...	...	" Balsanis Camelia	...	...	...	...	Medium.
Blue.	Lobelia Speciosa	...	...	...	...	Lobelia Speciosa	...	...	...	...	Very dwarf.
	Blue Larkspurs	...	...	...	...	Blue Larkspurs	...	...	...	...	Tall.
	Salvia Potens	...	...	...	...	Ipomea Hederacea	...	...	...	...	Very dwarf.
						Ipomea Rubro Cerulea*	...	...	...	...	Dwarf.
Pink.	Rose Pink Geranium	...	...	...	...	Pink Geranium	...	...	...	...	Medium.
	" Petunia	...	...	...	...	" Petunias	...	...	...	...	Dwarf.
	" Verbena	...	...	...	...	" Verbenas	...	...	...	...	Very dwarf.
	" Phlox	...	...	...	...	" Phlox	...	...	...	...	Dwarf.
	" Clarkia	...	...	...	...	" Nasturtium	...	...	...	...	do.
	" Nasturtium	...	...	...	...	" Asters	...	...	...	...	do.
	" Asters	...	...	...	...	" Larkspurs	...	...	...	...	Medium.
	" Larkspurs	...	...	...	...	" Balsams	...	...	...	...	do.
						" Portulacca	...	...	...	...	Very dwarf.
						" Zinnias	...	...	...	...	Very tall.
Crimson.	Petunia	...	...	...	...	Petunia	...	...	...	...	Dwarf.
	Verbena	...	...	...	...	Verbena	...	...	...	...	Very dwarf.
	Stocks	...	...	...	...	Portulacca	...	...	...	...	do.
	Linum	...	...	...	...	Batchelor's Button	...	...	...	...	Medium.
	Nosegay Geranium	...	...	...	...	Linum	...	...	...	...	Do.
Purple.	Verbena	...	...	...	...	Verbena	...	...	...	...	Very dwarf.
	Asters	...	...	...	...	Asters	...	...	...	...	Dwarf.
Orange.	Gazania Rigens	...	...	...	...	Erysimum Peroffskianum	...	...	...	...	Medium.
	Wall-flower	...	...	...	...	Dwarf Nasturtium	...	...	...	...	Dwarf.
	Erysimum Peroffskianum	...	...	...	...	Double Zinnia	...	...	...	...	Very tall.
	Nasturtium, dwarf	...	...	...	...	French Marigold	...	...	...	...	Medium.
	French Marigold	...	...	...	...	African do.	...	...	...	...	Tall.
Mauve.	Viola Cornuta	...	...	...	...	Verbena	...	...	...	...	Very dwarf.
	Verbena	...	...	...	...	Balsam	...	...	...	...	Medium.
						Double Zinnia	...	...	...	...	Very tall.
Neutral foliage. Silver.	Cineraria Maritima	...	...	...	...	Cineraria Maritima	...	...	...	...	Medium.
	Stachys Lanata	...	...	...	...	Stachys Lanata	...	...	...	...	Dwarf.
	Variegated Mint	...	...	...	...	Salvia Argentea	...	...	...	...	do.
	Centaurea Ragusina	...	...	...	...						
	Variegated Cape Geranium	...	...	...	...						
Dark foliage. Deep red.	Perilla Nankensis	...	...	...	...	Amarant hus	...	...	...	...	Tall.
	Amaranthus	...	...	...	...	Pegonia Rex	...	...	...	...	Dwarf.
						Caladium	...	...	...	...	Medium.
						Canna Warszewicki	...	...	...	...	Tall.

*Sown in Nov. becomes a dwarf trailer.